

## Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USEC BRUSSELS 2008

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1669

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ELAB, SP

SUBJ: TRAVELS OF PSOE'S FELIPE GONZALEZ--DEVELOPMENTS IN PSOE

SUMMARY: PSOE INTL AFFAIRS CHIEF COMMENTED, INTER ALIA, ON FELIPE GONZALEZ' RECENT TRIP TO RUMANIA, ON HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO MEXICO, VENEZUELA, AND PERHAPS CUBA; ON EFFORTS TO EFFECT RECONCILIATION WITH PSOE "OLD GUARD- BREAKAWAY FACTION: AND ON PSOE ATTITUDE TOWARDS PCE AND UNITED FRONT EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING COURSE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, LUIS YANES, MEMBER OF ILLEGAL SOCIALIST PSOE EXEC COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND RIGHT HAND MAN OF PSOE FIRST SECRETARY FELIPE GONZALEZ, COMMENTED ON VARIOUS TOPICS.

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2. PARIS MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALIST CONFERENCE - YANES ACCOMPANIED GONZALEZ TO MITTERRAND'S JANUARY MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALIST CONFERENCE IN PARIS, WHERE HE FELT GONZALEZ' PRINCIPAL ACCOMPLISHMENT HAD BEEN TO CONVINCE PARTICIPANTS THAT NEITHER FRENCH MODEL OF SOCIALIST/COMMUNIST ALLIANCE WHICH MAY HAVE BENEFITTED PSF, NOR ITALIAN MODEL OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC/SOCIALIST COALITION WHICH HAS HURT THE ITALIAN SOCIALISTS, ARE APPROPRIATE FOR SPAIN AND PSOE.

3. GONZALEZ' OTHER RECENT FOREIGN TRAVELS - DURING PAST MONTH GONZALEZ HAS MADE THREE OTHER FOREIGN TRIPS, I.E., (A) EARLY FEB VISIT TO RUMANIA; (B) MID-FEB VISIT TO AUSTRIA WITH PORTUGAL'S MARIO SOARES AT BRUNO KRIESKY'S INVITATION; AND (C) FEB 24-26 VISIT TO ROME TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING AT INVITATION WIDE SPECTRUM OF ITALIAN POLITICIANS OF REPS OF 15 SPANISH OPPOSITION GROUPS, LARGELY FROM PCE-MANIPULATED "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" AND FROM NONCOMMUNIST "PLATAFORMA DE CONVERGENCIA" COALITIONS, INCLUDING IDC'S RUIZ GIMENEZ, PCE'S SANTIAGO CARRILLO, AND WORKERS COMMISSIONS MARCELINO CAMCHO.

4. RECENT RUMANIA TRIP - YANES FORMED PART OF PSOE DELEGATION WHICH ACCOMPANIED GONZALEZ ON RUMANIAN TRIP, WHICH HE SAID REPRESENTED FIRST PSOE VISIT TO A COMMUNIST COUNTRY AND WAS IN RESPONSE TO LONG-STANDING INVITATION. HE ADDED DELEGATION WAS NOT IMPRESSED WITH WHAT IT SAW AND WAS RESENTFUL OF CONSTANT PROPAGANDA AND RIGIDLY GUIDED TOUR TREATMENT IT WAS SUBJECTED TO.

5. GONZALEZ' FORTHCOMING TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA - YANES SAID GONZALEZ PLANS DEPART MARCH 14 AT HEAD OF PSOE DELEGATION INVITED TO VISIT MEXICO AND VENEZUELA, AND ADDED THERE IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY CUBA MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN TRIP ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT CERTAIN. WHEN EMBOFF LOOKED ASKANCE, YANES HASTENED TO ADD THAT INVITATION HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED BY FRENCH SOCIALIST PSF, WHO HAD HAD OBSERVERS PRESENT AT RECENT CUBAN CP CONGRESS AND HAD BEEN ASKED BY CUBANS TO RELAY TO SPANISH PSOE CUBAN INTEREST IN HAVING GONZALEZ VISIT CUBA.

6. GONZALEZ' TRAVELS WITHIN SPAIN - CROWDS GATHERED BY GONZALEZ IN HIS RECENT TRAVELS AROUND SPAIN HAVE FAR EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS OF PSOE, E.G. SEVILLE UNIVERSITY IN JAN AND MORE RECENTLY

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IN BASQUE PROVINCES, WHERE HE ADDRESSED LARGE RALLIES (SEVERAL THOUSAND IN EACH) IN SAN SEBASTIAN, EIBAR, AND BILBAO, ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION WITH PREVIOUS PERMISSION FROM CIVIL GOVERNOR. DURING BASQUE TRIP, GONZALEZ HAD TROUBLE WITH HECKLERS, WHO IN BILBAO EVEN PREVENTED HIM FROM FINISHING HIS SPEECH. YANES DESCRIBED HECKLERS AS BASQUE "RACISTS" AND "RIGHTISTS" (PSOE FLIER DESCRIBED THEM AS 100 "ULTRA-RIGHTISTS")) FROM TOWN OF MONDRAGON WHO CONSIDERED GONZALEZ A NON-BASQUE

INTRUDER. (AMCONSUL BILBAO REPORTS HIS SOURCES INDICATE HECKLERS WERE FROM ELA-BERRIS, A BASQUE GROUP WITH CLOSE TIES TO BASQUE NATIONALIST PNV AND ITS AFFILIATED STV TRADE UNION.) UPON GONZALEZ' RETURN FROM ROME, HE SET OFF ON A TRIP TO VALENCIA, AND SUBSEQUENTLY PLANS ADDRESS MASS RALLIES IN MURCIA AND ALICANTE. (NOTE--PRESS ANNOUNCED GONZALEZ' SCHEDULED FEB 27 VALENCIA RALLY WAS CANCELLED AS RESULT OF A BOMB EXPLOSION THAT MORNING AT PLANNED RALLY SITE WHICH CAUSED PROPERTY DAMAGE, AND BECAUSE OF SUBSEQUENT TELEPHONED BOMB THREATS.)

7. POSSIBLE REUNIFICATION WITH PSOE "OLD GUARD" FACTION - YANES CONFIRMED MEETINGS ARE CONTINUING BETWEEN GONZALEZ AND HIS "YOUNG TURK" PSOE LEADERSHIP AND "HISTORIC" OR "OLD GUARD" PSOE FACTION WHICH BROKE WITH PARTY FOUR YEARS AGO AFTER GONZALEZ AND "YOUNG TURKS" WON CONTROL OF PSOE AT 1972 CONGRESS. THESE MEETINGS TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF REINTEGRATION OF "OLD GUARD" FACTION ARE BEING HELD WITH VICTOR SALAZAR, AN EXILE FOR 39 YEARS IN MEXICO WHO RETURNED TO RESIDE IN SPAIN ONE MONTH AGO AND WHO WAS ELECTED PSOE "OLD GUARD" FACTION SEC GEN IN 1974 AFTER "OLD GUARD" GOT FED UP WITH ITS LONG-TIME EXILE LEADER, RODOLFO LLOPIS, AND OUSTED LATTER. YANES SAID THERE IS POSSIBILITY THESE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT LEAD TO REUNIFICATION. NOW THAT LLOPIS, ONE OF PRINCIPAL OBSTACLES, HAS COMPLETELY RETIRED (NOTWITHSTANDING LLOPIS' RECENT TWO WEEK EMOTIONAL VISIT TO SPAIN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS IN EXILE). SIDES ARE STILL FAR APART, HOWEVER, AND BASIC PROBLEMS INCLUDE INSISTENCE OF "OLD GUARD" FACTION ON SOME PSOE EXEC COMMITTEE POSTS AND CONTINUED DIFFERENCES OVER "OLD GUARD'S" OPPOSITION TO ANY CONTACTS WITH COMMUNISTS.

8. PSOE ATTITUDE TOWARDS PCE AND UNITED FRONT COALITIONS - YANES REPEATED BY-NOW WELL-KNOWN PSOE POSITION THAT LEGALIZATION OF PCE WAS INDISPENSABLE TO PSOE, WHICH COULD NOT AFFORD TO CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE A STILL-ILLEGAL PCE ON ITS LEFT MONOPLIZING SPANISH OPPOSITION LABEL, BUT HE ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT THE PSOE DOUBTS THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PCE-MANIPULATED "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" AND NONCOMMUNIST "PLATAFORMA DE CONVERGENCIA" COALITIONS WILL LEAD TO ANYTHING. PSOE DID NOT OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE TO PARTICIPATING IN BORAD TEMPORARY ALLIANCE WHERE ALL OPPOSITION GROUPS, INCLUDING PCE, WERE REPRESENTED BUT IN WHICH PCE WOULD ONLY REPRESENT ONE GROUP. PSOE DID OBJECT, HOWEVER, TO ANYTHING IN WHICH PCE WOULD BE ADDITIONALLY REPRESENTED THROUGH FRONT GROUPS AND OTHERS ACTING ON PCE'S BEHALF, AS WAS CASE IN "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA." PSOE WAS ALREADY HAVING ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH PCE UTILIZATION OF FRONT GROUPS, AND HE CITED THE LARGELY PCE-SPONSORED "NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS" AND "ASSOCIATIONS OF HOUSEWIVES" WHICH ARE SPRINGING UP ALL OVER SPAIN AT PRESENT AS EXAMPLES OF THE TYPE OF PCE MANEUVERS THE PSOE IS UP

AGAINST.  
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